

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed January 11, 2006 in the above-identified application. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8 and 18 have been amended. The amendments are clearly supported, for example, by Fig. 3 of the application. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 8 and 18 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 8 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Lasalandra et al. (U.S. 6,753,691). Claims 3-7, 9-17 and 20 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lasalandra discloses a circuit for detecting displacements using micromechanical sensors with compensation of parasitic capacitances and spurious displacements. A circuit shown in Figs. 5-7 uses a sensing operational amplifier 111 configured as a charge integrator and has two outputs 111a and 111b (col. 6, lines 26-40). A sensor 101 is represented by sensing capacitors 107-110 (col. 5, line 58 to col. 6, line 9). Sensor signals are coupled from sensing capacitors 107-110 to the inputs of operational amplifier 111.

The sensing circuit of Lasalandra and the power amplifier circuit recited by applicants' claims are very different circuits. Use of an operational amplifier configured as a charge integrator is very different from the use of an operational amplifier configured as a power amplifier. A person of skill in the art would not use the teachings of Lasalandra to provide a power amplifier.

In addition, amended claim 1 is distinguished over Lasalandra because Lasalandra does not disclose or suggest an amplifier having a single output as claimed. In addition, Lasalandra does not disclose or suggest a power amplifier circuit wherein a reference voltage is supplied to a second input of the amplifier by a time-constant circuit comprising a decoupling capacitor. As shown in

Figs. 5-7 of Lasalandra, sensor signals generated by sensor 101 are coupled to the inputs of amplifier 111. However, a reference voltage supplied by a time-constant circuit comprising a decoupling capacitor is not supplied to a second input of the amplifier. Capacitors 107-110 of Lasalandra are not decoupling capacitors but instead supply sensor signals to the amplifier. For these reasons, amended claim 1 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Lasalandra.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Lasalandra for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Amended claim 8 is directed to a power amplifier circuit and requires, in part, a first amplifier having a single output and a reference voltage circuit for supplying a DC reference voltage to a second input of the amplifier. Lasalandra does not disclose these features. In particular, Lasalandra does not disclose an amplifier having a single output and does not disclose supplying a DC reference voltage to a second input of the amplifier. For these reasons and for the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, amended claim 8 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Lasalandra.

Claims 9-17 depend from claim 8 and are patentable over Lasalandra for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1 and 8.

Amended claim 18 is directed to a method for operating a power amplifier comprising a first amplifier having first input, second input and single output and requires, in part, receiving a DC reference voltage at the second input.

Lasalandra contains no disclosure or suggestion of an amplifier having a single output and no suggestion of receiving a DC reference voltage at the second input of the amplifier. The second input receives a sensor signal from the sensor. For these reasons and for the reasons discussed above in connection with claims and 1 and 8, claim 18 is clearly and patentably distinguished over Lasalandra.

Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and are patentable over Lasalandra for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1, 8 and 18.

In view of the above amendment and discussion, applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

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